prescribed contribution. It had also recommended that the health insurance scheme should be compulsory for new Government employees who would be joining service after the introduction of the Scheme. Similarly, It had recommended that new retirees after the introduction of the insurance scheme would be covered under the scheme.

Ministry of Health & Family Welfare has floated an Expression of Interest from Insurance companies providing health Insurance and health insurance Consultants for implementation of the proposed Central Government Employees and Pensioners Health Insurance Scheme (CGEPHIS) for Central Government employees and pensioners on an all India basis.

Providing lab facilities at Civil Hospital, Rohru

775. SHRI RAJNITI PRASAD: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government will consider the proposal for providing vital laboratory instruments to the Civil Hospital, Rohru in Shimla District of Himachal Pradesh;

(b) whether it is a fact that due to absence of pathological tests in the said Hospital patients are referred to Shimla; and

(c) if so, what steps will be taken to fully equip the Hospital under N.R.H.M.?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) Yes. Under National Rural Health Mission (NRHM), States are encouraged to include proposal for improvement of health infrastructure including proposal for providing vital laboratory instruments in their Annual Programme Implementation Plan(PIP), which are considered and approved by National Programme Coordination Committee (NPCC).

(b) No. All routine Hematological tests including Biochemistry test, HIV Tests and Test related to Sexually Transmitted Diseases are being done at Civil Hospital, Rohru in Shimla District. Besides, all facilities for testing blood in Blood Bank are available there. However, Biopsies taken by the Surgeon are being sent to Pathology Deptt. of Medical College (Indira Gandhi Medical College, Shimla) because pathological/specialized tests are done only in the Labs of Medical Colleges.

(c) The funds will be released on the recommendations of the NPCC to Government of Himachal Pradesh in case they prefer to incorporate the case of upgradation of the said hospital in their annual PIP under NRHM.

Medical treatment of BPL families

776. SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether households living below the poverty level will have an access to hospitals for medical treatment; and

(b) if so, by when and to what extent and what would be the policy thereof, with time frame for implementation?